



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

8464 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

Phone: 334-273-0001 / Fax: 334-273-0375

September 25, 2014

ELDERS:

Tim Bagents
Don Brannan
Ted Norton

DEACONS:

Billy Bush
Roger Dill
Tim Gotkiewicz
Steve Housley
Wayne Johnston
Jimmy Mathews
Roy Mulkey
Randy Porterfield
Jeff Simpson

MINISTERS:

Steve Housley, Pulpit
Tim Gotkiewicz, Youth
& College

SCHEDULE:

Sunday:

9:00 a.m. Bible Class
10:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

RADIO PROGRAM
WMGY 800 AM DIAL
Sunday's 7:30-8 a.m.
With **ROGER DILL**

STATISTICS 9/21/14

Bible Class: 150
AM Worship: 183
PM Worship: 130
EMBF: \$83.00

WELCOME!

—Sept. 28th—

Deficit Reduction *Sunday*

\$16,770.00

The goal this Sunday is \$16,770—our weekly budget of \$12,120 + \$4,650 (half of our short-fall).

FROM THE MINISTER:

Budget Catch-Up Sunday. Many of you have given liberally and consistently which allowed us to be current with the budget through the second quarter. Unfortunately, we have fallen behind in the third quarter. For some churches, budgets are merely a reflection of what might be done in a year, or a wish list of what they would hope to be done, but for Eastern Meadows the budget is a carefully considered and calculated spending based on what the church needs to do within the limitations of the expected giving. We need to stay at budget. This quarter has perhaps been one of the most “fall behind” quarters that I remember. I have no answer as to why. However, the only way we can “make it up” is to dig deeper, even beyond what we had originally planned to give, and each do our part to catch up. Tish and I plan to do our part; I hope you will too. Thank you!!

Radical. When I preach a series, I feel like the topics go everywhere with me. I eat with them; sleep with them, etc. They are on my mind constantly. I preach the series not just to have something to say for 30 minutes when I get up, but I preach these lessons because I believe in the message and believe it needs to be heard. This was especially true with the Radical series. And no, it was not easy “letting go” of this series. Somewhat for that reason the final lesson was a more complete review. But I also wanted to put it a bit in perspective. When we live the Christian life the way God wants us to live it, we are different from the world; we are different from denominationalism. In fact, we will be so different that they will likely notice. So the challenge: Do people who know me see that my commitment to God and the living of the Christian life permeates all of my life; that the commitment is real; that it means at some point my life is different than theirs? Let us be Radical Christians (not to God, but to the world!).

New Series. Not this Sunday, but the next. I want to preach Jesus! We will be looking at such things as My Jesus, My God; My Jesus, My Savior; My Jesus, My King; My Jesus, My Judge; and My Jesus, My All. And yes, this series of lessons may be interrupted by other lessons that need to be taught along the way.

Bible Class News. Thanks to Josh Cochran for teaching the auditorium class the Epistles of John – Jude. Beginning this Sunday, Alan Kay will be teaching the book of Revelation. Thank you gentlemen for the job well done!

Invite ‘em Cards. Are you using them? Invite. Invite. Invite.

FROM THE YOUTH/COLLEGE MINISTER:

Our Youth and Family devotionals this year are based on the Lads to Leaders convention theme for 2015, which is “ONE” taken from the Bible Bowl and Pearls study of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians.

While studying for our first devotional concerning the idea of unity, as expressed in Ephesians chapter 4, I took a close look at Philippians 1:27. Paul says, “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ....”

The word “gospel” literally means “good news” and that “good news” is defined by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 as the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

Therefore, by extension, Philippians 1:27 tells us that our conduct should be worthy of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

How do we do that?

Take a look at Ephesians 4:1-3: "I (Paul), therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."

Second Thessalonians 2:14 tells us that we were called by the gospel. Verse 15 tells us, "Therefore brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by words or our epistle."

Letting the scriptures define themselves (putting it all together): We walk worthy of the gospel when we walk in lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing one another in love, **endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit**, which means living according to the teaching of the spirit and thus maintaining peace among ourselves. Our unity, then, depends on each of us knowing and following God's word!

Have you walked worthily today? Have you studied the teaching of the Spirit today?

Youth group reminder: Area-wide t-shirts are 7 dollars each. I placed the order this week, so if you haven't yet paid, please see me. Thanks!

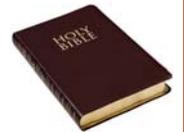
The ICYC camp director is still looking for volunteers to work the University of Alabama concession on November 15th (Miss Bulldogs) and November 29th (Iron Bowl). If you are interested, let me know and we'll get you hooked up.

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last week's question: Jude reminds us of three examples of God's vengeance. Which is not mentioned? B) The people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive (Jude 6 & 7)

This week's question: Apocalypse means:

- A) End times B) Judgment C) Uncovering



What Costs Me Nothing

After David had been told by God to build an altar and worship God on the threshing floor of Araunah, this Jebusite offered the king the threshing floor and everything necessary to worship God. David refused the offer with these words: "Nay, but I will verily buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt-offerings unto Jehovah my God which cost me nothing." (2 Samuel 24:24)

Would that all Christians had the attitude of David! Instead, they often show the very opposite disposition. David realized that an offering which costs him nothing was worth exactly that to Him – nothing. God has always demanded the best that a person has – not what somebody else has. (Leviticus 22:21)

All we have has been given to us by God to use for His glory and in His service. We are but stewards of these things. (1 Peter 4:10) The Lord expects us to be good stewards, but giving what comes without cost to us is not practicing faithful stewardship.

The measurement of our devotion, reverence, and love for God is in direct proportion to how much we are willing to commit to the service of God, or how much we are willing to sacrifice. (cf.

John 12:3ff) Those who take the easiest, cheapest way to serve God are, in reality, servants of self, not God.

There is to be nothing cheap about our religion. It is to be the best we have—the same attitude that characterized David: “I will not offer...unto Jehovah my God that which cost me nothing.”

Al Brown (deceased), Curry St. church of Christ

ANNOUNCEMENTS 9/25/14

Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014 / Leading the congregation in:

Announcements:

A.M.: Robert Vickrey

P.M.: Robert Vickrey

Opening Prayer:

A.M.: Tim Stevens

P.M.: James Berry

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Alan Kaye

P.M.: John Cole

Singing:

A.M.: Nathan Bridges

P.M.: Nathan Bridges

SICK: CATHERINE LEINHEISER is in Baptist South after suffering a fall. MARSHA SUTTON continues to recover from back surgery. DAVID CUNNINGHAM, father of Melissa Bridges and Sarah Housley, will have heart valve surgery Oct. 1 in Birmingham. ANDY ALLEN, Phyllis' son, has begun a six month chemo treatment. BETTY DAVIDSON is scheduled for knee-replacement surgery Oct. 14. LEON JACKSON will soon be scheduled for surgery in Birmingham. Sick at home Sunday: JIMMY ALLEN, GEORGE DAVIDSON, HELEN DILL, MARCIA GRAVES, MARGARET GRAVES, KERRY ROBERTS, LEIGH SANDLIN, and DOROTHY SULLIVAN. Continue to remember our shut-ins: SYBIL SCOFIELD, TAM LOWERY, INELLA BOWDEN, JACKIE JOHNSTON, and JEWEL BARNES.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Health Issues) SYBIL DAVIS, BETTY ALLEN, SAMUEL MOORE, THOMAS TAUNTON, ANSLEY TINGLE, KEVIN BOOTH, and DAVID CUNNINGHAM. (Battling Cancer) DENNIS DRAGOTTA, KEVIN PENICK, and ANDY ALLEN.

PRAYER REQUEST UPDATE: BESSIE FRASIER, friend and co-worker of Linda Simpson, is now in remission. Bessie appreciates all the prayers on her behalf.

SUNDAY BIBLE LESSONS: 9/28—Lesson 96: *The Glorified Jesus in the Midst of His Church*, Rev. 1-3; 10/5—Lesson 97: *Heaven*, Rev. 4-7.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL: Team 2 (Gotkiewicz) will host the meal this Sunday, Sept. 28, following the AM worship service. Team 3 (Milam/Kelley) will host Oct. 5.

SINGING CLASS: Sundays, 4:30 PM

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS: 10:30 AM

OCTOBER CALENDAR: All events for the October calendar must be turned in Sunday, Sept. 28, to Wilma Berry.

ANNIVERSARY DAY: Redland Road Church of Christ will have their 13th Anniversary Sunday, Sept. 28, with Kenneth Randolph speaking. Bible class at 9; AM Worship, 10; lunch, 11:15; PM Worship, 12:45.

COLLOQUIUM SERIES: The Gus Nichols Library (Faulkner University) Colloquium Series is on “The Importance of Christian Evidences.” Thursday, Oct. 2, 1:00 PM, Dr. Mike Houts will speak. He is a member of the Faulkner University Board of Trustees and also serves as an auxiliary staff science writer for Apologetics Press.

AREA WIDE SINGING: Georgia Road Church of Christ will host the area wide singing Oct. 3, 7-8:30 PM.

LADIES' DAY: All ladies are invited to “A Day at the Spiritual Spa” at Redland Road Church of Christ Saturday, Oct. 4, with Diana Day, Brenda Kennedy, Martha Jean Russell, and Tara Taylor speaking. Registration begins at 9:15. Lunch will be provided. RSVP at 514-3656.

GUEST SPEAKER: Next Sunday, Oct. 5, DAVE HOGAN, of Mt. Dora Children's Home & Bible School, will speak at the PM worship service.

GOSPEL MEETING: North Lowndes Church of Christ will have a gospel meeting Oct. 5-7 with DAVID PHILLIPS speaking. Sunday, Bible class 9 AM and Worship 10 AM and 1 PM; Monday & Tuesday at 7 PM.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS JOY: Pick-up your shoeboxes for Panama Missions "Operation Christmas Joy" in the Ladies' classroom #105. Be sure to sign-up on the list. Shoeboxes must be returned by Wednesday, Oct. 21.

THANK YOU: Thanks—it was so nice of you! *Thanks so much to the Eastern Meadows ladies for providing lunch last week for the new class of Doctoral Students at Amridge University! We really appreciate your thoughtfulness. Sincerely, Jerry Martin (also signed by class members)*

UKRAINE NEWS: Steve recently heard from Vladimer Paziy. They are doing well and the church is doing well. Another congregation has been meeting with them and their attendance lately has been about 70, a very good number for the Kramatorsk church. Additionally, they are planning a campaign targeting those refugees from out of town who have come to Kramatorsk for safety. In the past 2 months Donetsk has been the stronghold of the rebels and with the resulting war between the Ukrainian soldiers and the rebels, there has been significant damage to the infrastructure. What was once an hour and a half drive from Kramatorsk to Donetsk is now a six hour drive, due the bridges out, roads out, etc. John Kachelman from Arkansas does a good work in Ukraine and spends a lot of time there. He speaks of the results of Russia having cut off natural gas supplies from Ukraine. Already most people do not have hot water (a hot bath has become a commodity!). Additionally, he fears that this will be a very cold winter for Ukraine with inadequate natural gas supplies. Our friends there may be in for more hard times. Please continue to pray for our friends in Kramatorsk and the church as a whole in Ukraine.



LA DYBUGS



Ladies Building Unity in God's Service

"Seventy-Times-Seven"

- **Quilting/Sewing:** Tuesday's, 1-3 PM
- **Visitation:** See Tish, Terry, or Shirley K.
- **Sept. 22:** M-N-M, 6:30/7 PM
- **Oct. 4:** Prayer Breakfast, 9 AM
- **Oct. 20:** B&D Club Lunch @ Newks, 11:30 AM
- **Oct. 27:** M-N-M, 6:30/7 PM

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

- **Oct. 12:** Area Wide Devo, PM, @ Dalraida, "Spirit"
- **Oct. 19:** Youth/Family Devo, PM

COLLEGE EVENTS:

- **Wednesday Night Desserts,** 7:30 PM
- **Oct. 5:** Devo, PM

FAITH IN THE INVISIBLE

"We live by faith, not by sight," wrote Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians (5:7).

Faith contains the element of the invisible. It believes in what it cannot point at. Its light comes from walking in the dark. In this sense, pardon the expression, faith is based on ignorance, in the sense of not knowing by personal experience.

Faith is certainly not ignorant, in the Biblical sense of refusing to come to terms with truth or knowledge. But it deals with the unseen. Faith is Elisha who sees nothing but a pagan army with horses and chariots surrounding Dothan and who tells his servant, "Don't be afraid, for our side

outnumbers them" (2 Kings 6:15). For he has already "seen" the divine army and chariots of fire streaming down the mountain.

Faith, wrote John to persecuted Christians, is seeing Rome the superpower against a handful of disciples without despair, as he pulls back the curtains of heaven to reveal the invisible war being fought by the celestial hosts. The book of Revelation shows how lopsided the war really is--on the side of the Christians.

Faith, claimed the Hebrew writer, is trekking through the world toward a home hidden by the mists and fogs of this planet, seeing only "in the distance" (11:13), but a home no less real for the mileage. And the ancients never grasped hold of the promise in this life.

Faith is a life-long position. A perennial leaning forward that only stops when it passes the threshold into eternity.

Faith is the weathered farmer who plants the seed, scattering right and left, not knowing whether this or that soil will bear fruit that remains. But he trusts that the word of the Lord will not return void to its owner (Isaiah 55:11).

Learning, the social scientists tell us, takes place in different ways for different people, among them the visual, aural and physical (kinetic).

Faith is not visual, it sees nothing in this world to produce it.

Faith is not physical, it touches nothing in this world to generate it.

Faith is aural, it hears the word of God and believes in his promise. Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17).

God speaks, and faith closes its eyes to the world. Indeed, "faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).

God promises, and faith releases what it can feel, for we "have not come to something that can be touched" (Hebrews 12:18-24).

"For the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel from faith to faith, just as it is written, "The righteous by faith will live" Romans 1:17).

--J. Randal Matheny, *Forthright Magazine*,

An Ode to the Dislocated

I looked around our Bible class
Last Sunday, and 'tis true;
Familiar faces greeted me,
But I couldn't locate you.
And Sunday night - it was the same -
It made me feel so blue
Though heartened by the ones who came,
I couldn't locate you.
Then Wednesday evening brought us back,
The usual mid-week crew;
I searched and hoped and searched some more,

But I couldn't locate you.
It seems so often when we meet
And find our favorite pew,
That something's missing; something's wrong -
We just can't locate you.
You're missed, you know! We want you back!
You need to be here, too.
We'd hate to search through heaven,
Unable to locate you.

— Dalton Key, via *BulletinGold*